

Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes: October 6, 2009

Welcome and Introductions: Brian Alexander welcomed the group and roundtable introductions were made.

September 2009 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Agency Updates:

- *Asheville Homeless Network:* Moss is moving to Knoxville in July to set up a Homeless Network there and is in the process of turning over duties here to other AHN members. AHN is participating again in the Belk Charity Sale on November 7th, and will be selling tickets for \$5.
- *HUD-VASH:* 32 of the 35 new vouchers are spoken for.
- *DSS:* The new office at the Leicester Crossing Shopping Center opened October 1st and is available to anyone but primarily targeting residents of the 28748 and 28806 zip codes.
- *Homeward Bound:* Fran Harvey introduced Rebecca Williams, who is the new Project Director of the Beaucatcher Brew play, now entitled "Always Believe in Miracles." Rebecca's office is at the Central United Methodist Church on Patton Avenue, and her phone number is 768.2456.
- *Western Highlands:*
 - Training on subsidized housing application processes will be held on Tuesday, October 20th from 1 to 4 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Western Highlands. Presenters will include Liberty Corner Enterprises, WNCCHS, Mental Health Association in NC, and Homeward Bound, and programs discussed will include HUD Supported Housing, Shelter Plus Care, 811 and 202, and NC Housing Finance Agency Housing 400 and Key programs. To register, visit the training calendar at www.westernhighlands.org or call Laura Willis at 225.2785, ext. 2969.
 - Beginning October 14th, no new applications can be made to the state for Community Support. Services will still be received but will no longer be called Community Support, and more funding will be available for mental health outpatient services and psychosocial rehabilitative day treatment. Everyone should have a transition plan for this and can call the access line at Western Highlands with any challenges.

Continuum of Care: Robin Merrell discussed this annual grant through HUD that we apply for as a community and that contributes to the operating costs of A-HOPE, 3 Shelter Plus Care units, Interlace, and Pathways to Permanent Housing.

- The grant is due to HUD on November 11th and Robin and Amy Sawyer will need your cooperation with reporting, so please be responsive to them.
- The NOFA is online, and Robin can email it to you as well.
- 2010's new requirements include certification that we're collaborating with schools (McKinney-Vento education funds) and working to place homeless children in shelters/housing to minimize the impact of homelessness on their schooling.

- Previously, we had to prioritize projects and we no longer have to for renewals. We do have to report on how we're coordinating stimulus funding, specifically HPRP. We'll also receive points for HUD-VASH participation.
- There is a new emphasis on serving people discharged from an institution where they've been for no more than 90 days.
- Continuum of Care has been defined as 6 elements: outreach/engagement/assessment; emergency shelter care; rapid re-housing; transitional housing with support; permanent housing; and prevention strategies.

Continuum of Care Bonus Project: \$44,507 is available for a bonus project, and ABCCM's Veterans' Restoration Quarters and Homeward Bound both submitted project proposals and presentations.

- Michael Reich presented ABCCM's proposal to use the funding as a bridge to make their existing permanent supportive housing program accessible to men who are waiting for disability approval. The funding would also act as a supplement for men who are unable to pay the full program fee.
- Brian Alexander presented Homeward Bound's proposal to use the funding to create additional housing in their existing supportive housing program for individuals who are chronically homeless. Homeward Bound received the Continuum of Care bonus funding 2 years ago to create their current program, which has placed 7 individuals in housing and has a 100% retention rate.

Representatives of ABCCM and Homeward Bound were ineligible for voting, and all other agencies represented received one ballot. The Coalition voted to award the bonus project funding to Homeward Bound, and Robin will meet with Brian to coordinate.

Colonel Miller of the Salvation Army provided a brief history of his involvement with Salvation Army and the creation of the FEMA fund, as well as an overview of some Salvation Army programs in Asheville.

Homeless Persons' Memorial Service will be held on December 19th at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville. Emily Ball will be contacting agencies to collect information about persons to be memorialized, and you can also contact her with suggestions for the service.

Homeless Coalition update: Emily Ball, the AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer with the Homeless Initiative, will be coordinating the Homeless Coalition meeting schedule; please contact her if you'd like to host a Coalition meeting at your agency. She'll also be spearheading website development for the Homeless Coalition.

Mission/Vision Homework Assignment: Please

Next Meeting: November 3rd at 12:30 p.m. at WNCCHS (312 Haywood Rd., in the church).